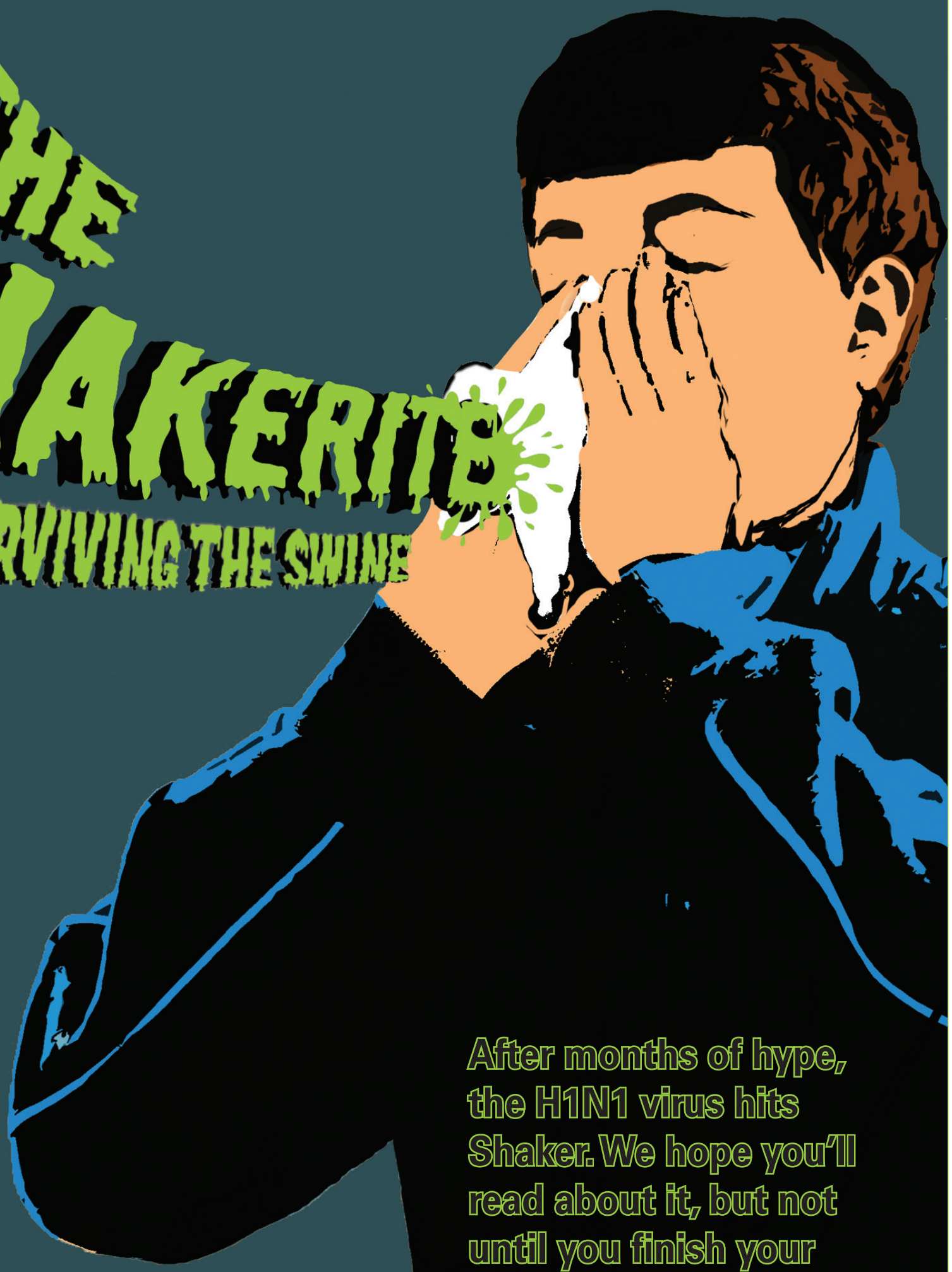
The Shakerite

Surviving the swine



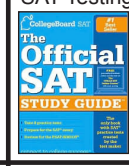
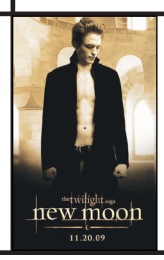
After months of hype, the H1N1 virus hits Shaker. We hope you'll read about it, but not until you finish your make-up work. Page 3

November 02, 2009•Volume 80•Issue 2•Shaker Heights High School•15911•Aldersyde Drive•Shaker Heigts, Ohio 44120

COVER SHOT
The ghoulish illustration of our H1N1/swine flu reality, created by Photo Editor Brandon Mercer, portrays what many people experienced during Ocotber. If you were not hacking, coughing, sweating and blowing your nose, you most likely were sitting next to or between people who were. The Shakerite was no exception; prolonged absences cut this month's paper from 12 pages to eight. School nurse Paula Damm, who commands Flu Central from her clinic, warns that flu season is just beginning and doesn't peak until February. Wash those hands, Shaker!

THE SHAKERITE
Volume 80 • Issue 2
2009 Editorial Board
of *The Shakerite.*
All rights reserved.
Staff
Taylor Smith*
Victoria Fydrych*
Editors in Chief
Dana Finley Joan Thompson Layne Sims
Noteworthy Editors
Rachel Shaw* Ilana Kramer* **Shaker Speaks Editors**
Miriam Chelimsky, Ellen Holcomb
The Beat Editors
Brandon Patterson, Katie Inglis
Limelight Editors
Patrick Pohlman Tom O'Neill* Ian Round
Raider Zone Editors
Julia Celeste
This Month Editor
Evan Wheeler
Copyeditor and Graphic Designer
Emily Gross-Rosenblatt
Design Editor
Allie Levin, Brandon Mercer
Photo Editor
Sarah Manary, Natalie Sekicky
Advisers
Emma Bresnehan
Business Manager
Betsy Karlin
Distribution Manager
*Denotes editorial board member
Letters
Letters to the editor must be signed and may not exceed 300 words. If chosen for publication, letters must be submitted electronically to shakerite@shaker.org. The Shakerite reserves the right to reject or edit any letter.
Advertising Inquiries
Please direct to Emma Bresnehan at shakerite@shaker.org or 216.295.6210
Disclaimer
Opinions expressed in The Shakerite articles are those of their respective authors, and do not represent the views of The Shakerite, Shaker Heights High School or the Shaker Heights City School District. The "Rite Idea" presents the views of the editorial board; however, it may not reflect the opinion of The Shakerite staff. The Shakerite is a public forum published nine times a year for and by students of Shaker Heights High School. Readers may reach The Shakerite at 216.295.6210. The Shakerite is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Northeast Ohio Scholastic Press Association.

NOVEMBER

1. Turn Clocks Back	**2.** OGT Testing 11&12	**3.** Professional Day No School Election Day Cavaliers vs. Washington 7:00pm	**4.** OGT Testing 11&12 6:30 Women's Fall Sports Awards	**5.** OGT Testing 11&12 Cavaliers vs. Chicago 8:00 pm	**6.** At the movies: "The Men Who Stare At Goats"	**7.** 7:45 a.m -1 p.m SAT Testing 
8.	**9.**	**10.** 7 p.m. 11th Grade College Planning (Parents and Students)	**11.** Veteran's Day 7:30 p.m. Fall Orchestra Concert	**12.** World Kindness Day 6:30 p.m. Men's Fall Athletic Awards	**13.** Conference Day -- No Classes At the movies: "2012"	**14.** Cavaliers vs. Utah 7:30 pm
15. Early Dismissal Miley Cryus Concert @ Quicken Loans Arena	**16.**	**17.** Cavaliers vs. Golden State 7 p.m.	**18.**	**19.**	**20.** At the movies: "The Twilight Saga: New Moon"	**21.** National Adoption Day
22. Start Your Own Country Day	**23.**	**24.**	**25.** Thanksgiving Break	**26.** Thanksgiving Day	**27.** Cavaliers vs. Dallas 7:30pm Thanksgiving Break	**28.**
29. Square Dance Day	**30.** Progress Reports Mailed	**31.**				

AT THE MOVIES: "THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON"

The second edition in the "Twilight" series, "New Moon," is finally here. Many fans have been anticipating this moment since the first movie hit theaters in 2008. The series, based on Stephanie Meyer novels, has captivated millions of teenagers and spurred a revival of vampire movies. Other vampire hits include HBO's show "True Blood" and the Oct. 23 premiere of "The Vampire's Assistant."

Compiled by Julia Celeste

heard in the halls

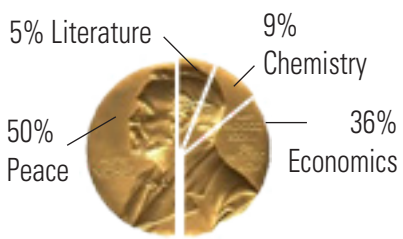
G-STRINGS AND NOBEL LAUREATES TAKE ON THE RAIDER NATION THIS MONTH

POLITICS

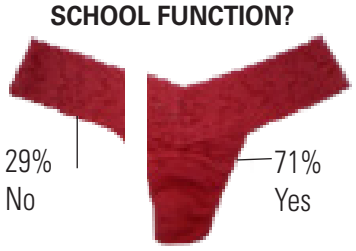
Student 1: "Did you hear President Obama won a Nobel Peace Prize?"
Student 2: "He wrote a book?"

Although a Nobel Prize in Literature does exist, Barack Obama was not awarded it in 2009. Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize for his "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples" and "vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons." Although the president has written two award-winning best-sellers, "Dreams of My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope," neither merited the Nobel Peace Prize. We commend this student's understanding of "prize," but he seems unable to distinguish between "literature" and "peace." Perhaps if ESPN, MTV or VH1 could take the time to broadcast relevant information, such unfortunate misunderstandings would not occur. Marissa Miller

WHAT DID OBAMA WIN A NOBEL PRIZE FOR?



HAVE YOU EVER WORN QUESTIONABLE UNDERWEAR TO A SCHOOL FUNCTION?



A telephone poll of 110 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 9.8 percent.

DANCES

Student 1: "I'm going to have to wear no bra or panties with my homecoming dress."
Student 2: "Yeah, that was the theme for last year."
Student 1: "There were vaginas everywhere!"

After a senior girl was kicked out of the 2008 Homecoming dance for exposure, the restroom conversation recounted above comes as no surprise. Wearing appropriate undergarments is a serious problem that many females face when preparing for Homecoming, along with other formal dances that invite wearing small and clingy dresses. It can be a difficult choice, if one decides to wear a low back dress, bras that can go undetected are hard, if not impossible, to come by.
By the same token, if one is wearing a dress that is tight, wearing underwear can pose an underwear line dilemma. The administration has asked that students dress to impress. My question, however, is how they will know if what is under your dress is as impressive as the dress itself. Julia Celeste

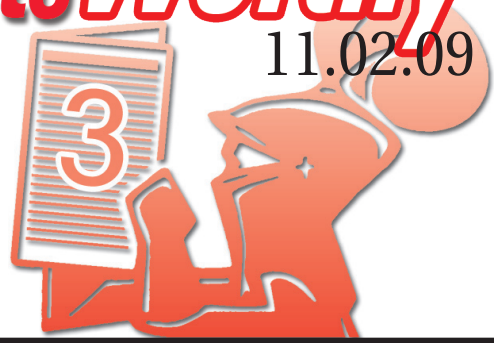
Dana Finley • The Shakerite

CONTESTED BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Shaker Heights is having its first contested Board of Education elections since 2003. Challenger Jennifer Mearns is running for one of three seats held by incumbents F. Drexel Feeling, Norman Bliss and Annette Sutherland. The election comes six months after the early renewal of Superintendent Mark Freeman's contract by the BOE's unanimous vote. Critics of the renewal complained that a quarter of last year's seniors graduated with less than a 2.0 GPA and petitioned the board to delay the renewal process. The BOE dismissed the petition, saying that 200 signatures couldn't speak for the 11,000 voters living in Shaker.

LAYNE SIMS

NoteWorthy
11.02.09



IMAGINE SHAKER

• Citizens who envision a better Shaker now have a chance to contribute to their future. Imagine Shaker is a new program aimed at improving the future of the Shaker Heights City School District. The program uses a technique known as Appreciative Inquiry, which involves actively seeking out opinions through interviews on how to improve a town or organization. "The point of these questions is to get stories from community members about their experiences in Shaker," said senior Samantha Goldfarb, who is participating as an interviewer. Interviews began in September and will continue through November. People who would like to be interviewed can sign up at shaker.org.
Once the interviews have been conducted, the responses will be sent to the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. A summary of the information will be created and presented at a public meeting. Shaker will then use the data collected to make decisions about schools' future.

ISSUE 4 REVIEW

• Issue 4 aims to provide money for the operating costs of Cuyahoga Community College. If passed, it would require residents of Cuyahoga County to pay an additional 19 cents for each $100 of value of their house. This issue would affect Shaker students who go to Tri-C for classes daily to get college credits through the post-secondary enrollment option, a state-funded opportunity for Ohio students to earn high school and college credits at the same time. According to Tri-C spokesman Dan Minnich, the funding provided by Issue 4 would cover 26 percent of the college's budget, or operate one of its campuses. Tri-C currently has a record number of more than 30,000 students. Almost half of all college students in America are attending community colleges.
Compiled by Kristen Ardnt and Sarah-Jane Lasek-Lorenzo

SHAKER FEELS THE SWINE FLU EFFECT

• As students succumb to the H1N1 virus, pressure mounts to catch up

Dana Finley • The Shakerite

AN ENTIRE AISLE is dedicated to hand sanitizers, face masks, ibuprofen and soap at the Shaker Square location of CVS Pharmacy. Employee Andy Kill said the location has seen a 100-200 percent increase in Purell sales and a noticeable increase in the purchase of face masks.

BY LAYNE SIMS AND ERIN CULLEN
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR AND STAFF REPORTER

A large wave of flu cases curbed school attendance and left school nurse Paula Damm exhausted by mid-October.

"[The students] are sick, I am tired! Please stay home if you're sick. Wash your hands," Damm stated in an email message.

According to Principal Michael Griffith, nearly 10 percent of the student body was absent with flu-like symptoms the entire month.

Damm, who has dubbed her clinic "Flu Central," sent 65 students home in the first 10 days of October, but said this number included those sent home for injuries and other reasons.

By comparison,during October 2008, Damm sent only 39 students home for sickness or injuries.

Though Damm is unsure if H1N1 or the seasonal flu is going around, she sends any student with three or more flu symptoms home for safety reasons.

"The best way to contain the flu is to isolate those who are sick," said Damm, who marks students sent home absent for two days.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, symptoms to watch for are cough, high fever, headache, upset stomach, muscle aches, weakness and fatigue. Damm noticed many of these symptoms in students, especially high fever.

University School closed its upper campus Oct. 14-16 due to student flu symptoms. According to information on the Fox 8 website, 150 kids, or about 38 percent of their student body were absent. This is equal to about 450 students absent at Shaker.

The wave of flu cases hitting the high school in October contrasted the relatively few cases during September. At that time, Damm said fear of the H1N1 virus drove students to her clinic, and that few students were as sick as they thought.

Despite the now large number of sick students, a school closing isn't likely. At a faculty meeting Oct. 19, Griffith said no magic number of absences would close Shaker schools. He said the decision to close schools belongs to Superintendent Mark Freeman.

As the quarter closed, teachers and students struggled to handle missed assignments. Griffith asked faculty to be prudent when calculating quarter grades for students missing large amounts of school due to illness.

Students filled the hallways making up quizzes and tests in the last days of the quarter.

"Between 20 and 50 percent of my kids were out," said tutor Lorna Thomas." To relieve the load on her students, she reduced their classwork and gave them a scheduled time frame to make up any missed assignments.

"It's hard on you to have so much work to make up after being sick," Thomas said.

Sophomore Taylor Upshur agreed."I missed an entire unit chapter, and two of my teachers were also absent," Upshur said. "I was very stressed because APUSH takes up a lot of my time."

Vaccine against H1N1 exists but is hard to come by. The federal government apparantly overestimated the amount of vaccine that would be available by flu season. The CDC recommends that teenagers get vaccinated because the H1N1 virus affects young people more than the seasonal flu. Medical professionals, including Damm, were the first to be vaccinated.

"I'm priority one since I'm the health care provider," she said.

The CDC recommends washing hands with hot soapy water over using Purell and other alcohol based hand sanitizers. Purell states that no hand sanitizer is indicated to prevent H1N1.

> "Please stay home if you're sick. Wash your hands."
>
> Paula Damm
> School Nurse

> "School closings are decided by Superintendent Mark Freeman."
>
> Michael Griffith
> Principal

BREAKING DOWN THE H1N1 VIRUS

by the #'s

13
Ohio school closings due to H1N1

434,000
Doses of H1N1 Vaccine Ordered by the Ohio Department of Health

6
Average number of students Nurse Damm sends home daily with flu-like symptoms

4,958
Confirmed H1N1 Hospitalizations Nationwide (2009)

Compiled by Joan Thompson

SWINE FLU FAQS

Q : Can I get the swine flu vaccine?
A: YES. High school students are a designated group for vaccination. Contact your doctor's office for information.

Q: How do I know if I have swine flu?
A:Fever more than 100 degrees? Chills? Sore throat? Headache? Diarrhea? Cough? Fatigue? Vomiting? If you're suffering from two or more of these symptoms, you may have H1N1, seasonal flu or another condition. There's no way to distinguish swine flu from seasonal flu without a blood test, which you can get at your doctor's office.

CHECK IT OUT:
Swine Flu Online "Diagnosis"
http://www.flu.gov/evaluation/index2.html#

Ohio H1N1 Information Line
1-866-800-1404
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Compiled by Joan Thompson

Election Day 2009

• In light of recent scandal and controversy over Cuyahoga County corruption, Issues 5 and 6 will help decide the county's future

ISSUE 5

PROPOSED CHARTER COMMISSION: COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

Added to the ballot after Issue 6, Issue 5 designates an elected 15-member board to examine the county government. The board may advise reforms in one year for election issues. It's supported by Peter Lawson Jones and and Tim Hagan, Cuyahoga County commissoners

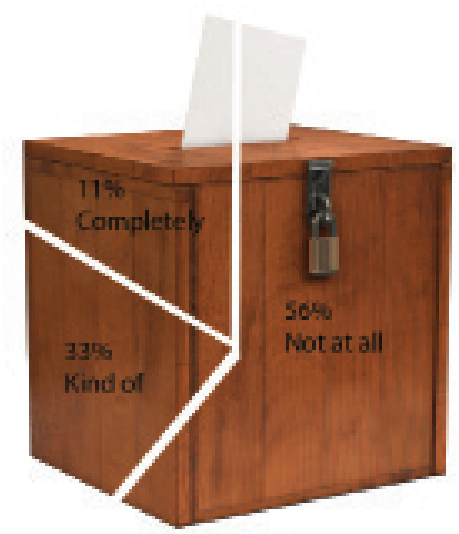
ISSUE 6

PROPOSED CHARTER COMMISSION (BY PETITION): COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

Issue 6 calls for a complete overthrow of the county government, to take effect in 2011. It's supported by Judy Rawson, former mayor of Shaker Heights

Compiled by Joan Thompson

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES ON THE NOV. 3 BALLOT?



GRIFFITH'S MESSAGE RILES STUDENTS BEFORE DANCE

•Despite its rough start, Homecoming proves to be a fundraising success for victims of Hurricane Katrina

BY DANA FINLEY
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Although Student Council reacted critically to Principal Michael Griffith's Oct. 8 announcement about dance behavior, they agreed with Griffith's view that the dance was a successful – and less provocative – event.

Students advocating lax rules were disappointed by Principal Michael Griffith when he gave a speech reaffirming the administration's position on dance behavior.

During 10th period on Oct. 8, Griffith made a building-wide announcement about his goals for Homecoming dance behavior Oct. 10.

"I want you to have a safe and positive time that will be memorable," Griffith said. "However, I also have high expectations for your behavior at the event."

During the announcement, Griffith asked students to reflect upon their manner of dancing at school socials. "Picture this audience . . . your grandmother, your pastor, your rabbi, your date's mother or father," Griffith said. "How would you dance in front of them? How would you physically touch your date in front of them?"

Griffith said that inappropriate dancing would not be tolerated. If students were warned two times, Griffith said, they would be asked to leave the dance without refund.

The announcement came about a month after the administration attempted to restrain student behavior at the Back to School Dance after announcements about conduct were made at class meetings Sept. 2. Approximately 15 people were asked to leave after exhibiting allegedly crude dance moves.

Some students, such as sophomore Logan Davis, were taken aback by Griffith's announcement. "I thought the announcement came off way too intense, but I understood its purpose," Davis said.

Junior Class President Walter Stamm felt similarly. "I was pretty shocked. He [originally] wanted to have both Student Council and the administration speak [during the announcement]," Stamm said in an Oct. 9 interview.

Griffith's somber tone of voice over the P.A. system caught students and staff off guard. "He began the announcement sounding so serious, then continued as if the way we dance was a 'life or death' situation," Davis stated.

Senior class vice president Keon Willis stated that he was told at a meeting with five administrators, whom he declined to identify, about a week and a half before the dance that students were not allowed to do "anything too provocative" and that PDA was prohibited. Members of the Student Council had to bargain with the administration to reach that agreement, according to Stamm.

Griffith's statement was far from what Student Council expected."We discussed what we wanted [Griffith] to say at the last meeting," Stamm said. "The administration totally went behind everybody's back. I don't think anybody will ever trust them again."

However, Griffith said in an Oct. 22 interview that in the days leading up to the announcement, he and other Student Council members mutually decided that Griffith alone would make the announcement. Griffith explained that he knew that many Student Council members had already circulated what a group of concerned students and council members had discussed in a meeting with Griffith prior to the announcement.

Griffith said regardless of whether students accompanied him in making the announcement or not, he planned to make one, as he usually does every year before Homecoming.

"Following the concern from [the back to school dance], I thought it was important," Griffith said. He also said that the issue of promiscuous dancing was difficult to address. "It's a tough issue," Griffith said. "You can't go on the intercom and say, 'here's what you can or cannot do.' "

According to Griffith, about 15 students were addressed for their objectionable dancing during the Homecoming dance, but nobody was asked to leave the social. "I felt this was a victory," Griffith said. "Hopefully, this will become an example for staff and students to work through issues."

Although some students objected to Griffith's message, there may have been a silver lining to the event itself. According to Senior Advisor Jewels Rossi, ticket sales for the Cajun-inspired "On the Bayou" homecoming dance generated $700 for the benefit of Hurricane Katrina victims in New Orleans.

Hey, Raider Nation! Don't get too close at the next school dance…
What would your Pastor or Rabbi think?
(y'know, because that's relevant and appropriate)
Students DRINKING before a school DANCE is illegal.
Students DANCING at a school DANCE shouldn't be.
Dana Finley•The Shakerite

FLIERS TALK BACK to Griffith's dance message.

YEAH, BUT THEY'RE DANCING LIKE THAT ON THE BIG SCREENS

Attendees of the Oct. 10 On the Bayou Homecoming dance may have noticed a new addition to the school social.

Senior class adviser Jewels Rossi said that it was her decision to employ the use of dual video screens at the dance along with the usual DJ booth.

"If you raise the ambiance level, students act differently," Rossi said.

She said that the goal of the video screens, which displayed videos of each song played at the dance, and the extensive Louisiana-themed décor, was to encourage students to act appropriately and respectfully as soon as they walked through the doors of the North Gym.

Another advantage to the screens, which were also employed at Prom 2009, was the extra lighting that they provided, Rossi said.

However, students noted that some videos displayed during the dance depicted behaviors that administrators had forbidden. Principal Michael Griffith agreed.

"I saw one or two videos while I was in the gym that were questionable in the way that they depicted women," said Griffith, who added that he was in the North Gym lobby during most of the dance.

"Unfortunately, the state of music videos currently is [questionable]," Rossi said. "Producers go for that trend."

Both Griffith and Rossi said that discussing the video content with the DJ company before another school social would be advisable.

Compiled by Dana Finley

SOPHOMORES POST DISSENT AFTER DANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

After Principal Michael Griffith addressed the student body Oct. 8 during tenth period regarding the rules and expectations for the Homecoming dance, many students rolled their eyes. Others protested by making posters.

Signs made by sophomores Josh Barnett and Alex Gaspar were seen scattered around hallways the day after the announcement, Oct. 9. One poster featured pictures of alcoholic beverages with a caption underneath stating that students drinking before the dance were violating the law. Also on these fliers were pictures of people grinding. The face of the female dancer had been blacked out. The poster read: "Students drinking before a school dance is illegal. Students dancing at a school dance shouldn't be."

"The fact that she was grinding didn't have anything to do with why I blacked out her face," Barnett stated. "It was just out of respect for her privacy."

Gaspar and Barnett believe that the dances serve as an alternative to other, potentially worse ways to channel teenage energy.

"The way I see it, while some previous years have gotten too 'intimate' on the dance floor, nothing generally done while twerking is dangerous or unsafe. A school dance is supposed to be a safe, supervised alternative to house parties, where much worse things can occur with no adult supervision. By taking away one of the main reasons students come to dances, this safe alternative doesn't exist anymore," Barnett stated in a Facebook message.

"I just wanted to get the point through that the reason for a dance is to provide a safe place or alternative for high school kids to go instead of doing drugs and drinking, but if you're not gonna let us just dance the way we want to have fun, we'll find other ways to do it, and some of them aren't the best things that we should be doing," Gaspar stated in a Facebook message.

However, Barnett was not convinced their guerilla campaign was effective. "I don't think that the signs had any significant effect on the student body. I think that they either just reinforced people's opinions about the dance policy, or they were just ignored."

Compiled by Alysse Eberhard

Barnett

Gaspar

EXCLUSIVE: NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST REVEALS ALL

Kathryn Rownd

The whopping 17 National Merit semifinalists have given the administration the chance to boast this earth-shattering number, which clearly elevates the school's worth. Senior Kathryn Rownd commented on how this honor has radically changed her life. **Shakerite:** When you found out you were a N. M. semifinalist, what did you do to celebrate? **Rownd:** I threw a humongous party, it was a huge celebration. **S:** How many hours did you spend studying for the SAT? **R:** About 45 hours a week, just kidding . . . absolutely zero. **S:** Have the paparazzi attacked you yet about your new status? **R:** Of course, I get followed everywhere I go; now I understand how celebrities feel. **S:** Now that you have achieved N. M. status, have you considered quitting school? **R:** Yes I have, on multiple occasions. Unfortunately I think you have to be 18 to drop out.

-WHITNEY LIVINGSTON

Everyone needs a HUG

• But you might not be able to get one at school as more districts ban hugging

BY WHITNEY LIVINGSTON AND ELLEN HOLCOMB
STAFF REPORTER AND THE BEAT EDITOR

Could embracing your friends be followed by a trip to Room 110 for a public display of affection? While Shaker has not yet outlawed hugging in the halls, bans on warm embraces are on the rise.

Schools around the country have been cracking down on hugging. The New York Times reported that school districts fearing sexual harassment suits, the spread of contagious diseases and clogged hallways have forbidden hugging or established three-second limits on hugs. Students hug at their own peril, lest they receive a detention, or be sent home.

"If hugs were banned here, it would really upset everyone; a lot of people would be suspended. Hugging can make a difference, it can make someone feel better," said Senior Hillari Bowling. Bowling hugs frequently— she offers the "church-hug" to acquaintances and the "bear-hug" to her boyfriend and friends. Bowling described the "church-hug" as standing far away from one another and reaching in with one arm to give a pat on the back.

Schools that prohibit hugs do so despite research that indicates that hugs reduce stress. One study demonstrated the benefit of hugs between adults and their long-term spouses or partners. The adults were instructed to retell a recent stressful event, causing their heart rates to increase. One hundred of the adults were allowed to hug their spouses after telling the story, and the other 85 were not.

The huggers' heart rates increased by five beats per minute whereas the non-huggers' heart rates increased by 10 beats per minute. The increase in blood pressure of the non-huggers nearly doubled that of the huggers.

Stress management teacher Susie Brown was not surprised by the research. "I don't think hugs should be banned, but they can be inappropriate and appropriate at certain times. If we become more sterile, we will be a more stressed society," Brown said.

Schools have almost always sought to minimize public displays of affection, seeing them as too intimate to be appropriate. The frequency of hugging and the litigious nature of Americans, however, have increased the pressure on schools to regulate such nefarious behavior.

"I give, like, two hugs per hallway visit," senior Greg Archer said. "I don't hug my friends too much, but I hug girls a lot."

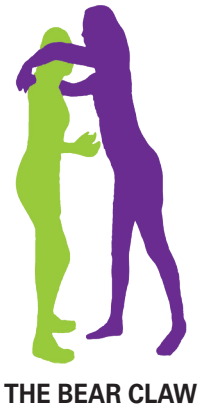
English teacher Jewel Reid sees no harm in hallway hugs. "I don't think hugging should be banned -- maybe kissing -- but hugging is innocent.

"Sometimes we need an encouraging hug, a pat on the back. This is a school, but we are human."

THE BEST FRIENDS

THE TRIPLE

THE HIGH 5 TO HUG



THE BEAR CLAW

THE HUG FROM BEHIND

Infographic by Ellen Holcomb, Brandon Mercer and Evan Wheeler

Photo Illustration by Gabe Gordan

OUTSIDE OF THE main entrance of the school, junior Alexis Payne embraces sophomore friend Amber Davis in a bear hug.

THE SHAKE AND LEAN

THE BEAR HUG

Searching for families

• National adoption month brings attention to waiting kids

BY AMBRE BETHOUX
STAFF REPORTER

On any given day, more than 800,000 American children are waiting.

These kids, whose number is about the population of Delaware, are not waiting for the typical things that try adolescents' patience – rides home from school, math class to end, or graded research papers to be handed back. They are waiting for families. In 2006, only 289,000 children were adopted.

National Adoption Day is Nov. 21. It is a day on which hundreds of adoptions are finalized in courthouses all across the nation.

The month of November brings awareness to adoption and the needs of children in foster care. Events such as recognition dinners and campaigns help to highlight the need of permanent homes for children. Since 2002, the adoption rate has increased 36 percent.

In 1976, Massachusetts Gov. Mike Dukakis proposed the idea of having a week reserved for adoption. As the idea became more popular, President Gerald Ford made it official. Adoption week soon grew to an adoption awareness month because of the success of the event.

Cleveland Adoption Network, a non-profit organization that provides education, support and advocacy, is not a government agency. They pick up where government agencies leave off. They not only try to find homes for children, but they also try to help adoptees find their birth parents.

The Cleveland Adoption Network has general support groups for children who were adopted and support groups for parents who were also adopted or have adopted children of their own. There is also a special group dedicated to teenagers who are adopted.

Betsie Norris of Cleveland Adoption Network specified that babies are not the only ones awaiting adoption. "When someone thinks about adoption, they usually think of babies, but there are also older kids," she said.

Eighty-four percent of children adopted are under the age of 10; only 14 percent of teenagers ranging from 11 to 18 years old are adopted. If the child stays in foster care too long, they age-out at the age of 18. As a result, they have no immediate family. "While it is more difficult to place teenagers in a home, if the teenager is open to it, it makes a difference," Norris said.

When a child is placed in foster care, they usually stay a year or two in case their biological parents resolve problems and are able to resume their roles. Eighty-two percent of children adopted from foster care are adopted by either a former foster parent or a relative.

High school students can volunteer at the Cleveland Adoption Network. A list of activities that are taking place in the month of November can be found on their website, http://www.adoptionnetwork.org/.

Shaker Speaks

11.02.09

ten second tick off

GETTING INTO COLLEGE: INSANITY IN SCHOOL FOR SCHOOL

LISA SETRAKIAN

My high school goal has been to get into the college(s) of my dreams. I've sacrificed time that could been directed towards sleeping and socializing. I feel like I've reached the final stretch of a marthon, and I trip over a rock.

GET THIS: Sending applications through Shaker costs $2.00. Fine, whatever. Sending SAT/ACT scores costs $9 PER COLLEGE which is ludicrous because TAKING the wretched tests costs $40-70. APPLYING TO SCHOOLS costs $40-90 JUST TO ASK COLLEGES IF WE CAN GIVE THEM $50,000+ YEARLY! SURE, I don't have to apply to 10 schools. But I want choices when I get rejected to ridiculously selective schools. This is more than filling out generic information and writing essays. Receiving the best education possible affects your family's well-being. I took every extracurricular and class I could while staying slightly sane. Now, going through this process, I'm past the brink of insanity.

Homecoming court causes controversy

As tradition goes, a girl cannot be king and a boy cannot be queen. And now, at Shaker, no one can be king or queen.

Shaker was shocked to see Ben Karlin, a male, elected senior Homecoming Queen in 2006. After that election, the administration eliminated king and queen from the ballot. Now, instead of choosing a homecoming king and queen, students vote for a Homecoming Court. Starting in 2007, Homecoming ballots specified voting for one girl and one boy from each grade for Homecoming Court.

ILANA KRAMER

Some students complained that eliminating the king and queen was done to prevent electing another boy as Homecoming Queen. However, Principal Michael Griffith said that the ballot was altered to ensure more equal recognition for everyone instead of having a Homecoming King and Queen elected from members of the court.

Despite what some students think, the 2007 policy change was not an effort to suppress gays. Griffith said that when the administration and Student Council made this decision, there was no intent to undermine Shaker's reputation for diversity.

RACHEL SHAW

If this gesture had nothing to do with a gay Homecoming Queen, the timing was very coincidental. Karlin and Griffith both admit that the Homecoming Court policy would have never been altered if Karlin hadn't been elected. Karlin also said that if this rule had been instituted before he, or any other male, was voted Homecoming Queen, no one would have given it a second thought.

While striving for equality on the Homecoming Court is certainly reasonable, didn't getting to that position challenge other ideas of equality? In order to avoid another controversial election, the administration put its foot in its mouth.

Although they made a questionable decision, it's not right to say that the administration is homophobic. Griffith said if students actively feel the administration is being unjust, the decision will be reconsidered. However, at Shaker, unlike at other schools, winning a place in the Homecoming Court just isn't a big deal. Few students vote, and fewer students are honored with what Griffith called "three minutes of glory," making a reconsideration very unlikely.

Despite students' tendency to "fight the power," in the big picture, Homecoming Court is essentially irrelevant. If you must resist the administration, don't fight them on this.

Choose something worth your time.

Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

VOTE BLISS, SUTHERLAND, MEARNS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION NOV. 3

For the first time since 2003, there are more candidates than seats in the Shaker Heights Board of Education race. The Editorial Board interviewed each candidate and discussed their election campaigns and ideas for improving the district.

While each candidate offered an impressive array of qualifications, the Editorial Board endorses Norman Bliss, Annette Sutherland and Jennifer Mearns.

Norman Bliss said that results, achievement, commitment and experience count. He is well-versed in financial analysis and budgeting thanks to years of experience in banking. Bliss serves on several committees, including the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee.

He is a supporter of the International Baccalaureate program, citing its community service requirement as an important value. Bliss said that all students can achieve at a high level if encouraged with high expectations.

Annette Sutherland is a well-rounded candidate. She sits on a variety of committees, including the Levy Campaign Committee and the Policy Committee, which facilitate positive change in the Shaker community. Sutherland is running for a second term. She is notable because she took the initiative to observe another district; Sutherland visited Solon and studied their planning process before helping to launch the Appreciative Inquiry project known as Imagine Shaker.

When first elected to the school board, she took a day to sit in on classes around the district, which gave her first-person insight into the system's strengths and weaknesses. Sutherland was also very truthful and open when discussing problems at the high school, including the achievement gap and the louder, more physical behavior of our generation everywhere, not just at Shaker. Her devotion to improving Shaker is evident in her active board services.

BLISS

SUTHERLAND

MEARNS

Jennifer Mearns is the challenger in this election and the Editorial Board feels that she will bring a strong "new voice" to the Board of Education. Her background in marketing lends itself to her proactive approach. She said that "consumers," or Shaker taxpayers, have a right to see facts and solid data.

When unable to get satisfactory information on the IB program, Mearns took the initiative to do personal research and came to her own decision. She ultimately concluded that the program would be beneficial to Shaker.

Mearns would coordinate and reinforce successful programs in the elementary schools. Perhaps most importantly, she genuinely would like to communicate more effectively with Shaker taxpayers and encourage resident input at Board meetings.

'rite idea

As all of the candidates mentioned in their interviews, the school district needs to progress to be successful. We believe these candidates will keep Shaker moving forward.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY WINS LEL, DISTRICTS

Katelyn Walker

The women's cross country team raced to a Lake Erie League championship with the help of senior Katelyn Walker. In addition to the team's first LEL win since 2007, Walker also led the team to their first ever victory in the district race, where she placed third individually. Although Walker had never run cross country before this season, as a three-year track veteran, she knew she would enjoy the sport. "I love to run. What better place to be than on a team that runs?" she said. Walker provided a major boost, but the team also benefited from very few injuries. Other than senior Katie Rownd's sixth stress fracture in four years, the majority of the team finished the season unscathed.

TOM O'NEILL

STABILITY REAPS REWARDS

• With steady coaching, men's soccer wins first outright Lake Erie League title despite injury epidemic

BY IAN ROUND
RAIDERZONE EDITOR

Variety may be the spice of life, but consistency wins championships.

From 2003 to 2006, men's soccer had three different coaches and a mediocre record. Since the arrival of head coach Nader Soliman in 2007, however, the Raiders have won more games than any season in the previous five years.

Soliman's adept coaching, the solid performance of the entire team and play of seniors Lance Neil (goalie) and Patrick Martahus (forward) led men's soccer to an 11-4-1 record this season and the first Lake Erie League championship in the program's 41 year history.

"Consistency is very important in any program," Soliman stated in an e-mail. "Players know what to expect, and coaches get to know the players coming up in the system."

Under Soliman, Shaker shared the LEL crown with Mentor last year, their fourth co-championship in program history.

The Egyptian-born Soliman previously coached Kirtland women's team, then as Painesville Riverside's head coach for three years before coming to Shaker,

The championship is all the more remarkable given the team's injury epidemic. David Anderson and Tivon Sterin fractured their hips, Leo Katz and Patrick Pohlman suffered avulsion fractures in their hips and BJ Ford suffered a groin injury."

A lot of underclassmen had to step up . . . we had a lot of problems at the beginning," Patrick Martahus said.Neil said the injuries actually didn't affect the team very much. "Honestly, it wasn't that bad," he said, explaining that the team's toughest games are at the end of the season, when most of the players will have returned.

Junior defender Tivon Sterin was extremely frustrated because his hip injury prevented him from playing against Mentor, which Shaker won 1-0. "It was the *worst*. . . The times when something was going wrong, I wanted to play so bad it was ridiculous," he said."The effort the team gave [against Mentor] was superhuman. Andrew Martahus was a brick wall [on defense].

Three freshmen stepped up and had the games of their lives," Neil said of men's soccer's first win at Mentor in program history.

Neil's shutout at Mentor was one of 10 this season, tying a state record. "I take it personally when a goal is scored on me, even in practice. I go into every game thinking 'shutout,'" Neil said.

He said he does think about breaking the record, "but I would never take credit for the record," sharing credit with defenders Andrew Martahus, Leo Katz, David Anderson and Jacob Miller. Neil attributes the Raiders' success to hard work and says that no one stands out. "We worked our asses off during the preseason and it's paid off. We're more of a team than we've ever been because we have no one star player, just a collection of very good ones," he said. Soliman agreed. "Our biggest attribute as a team is that we pull together," he said. In the five years pre-Soliman, the team didn't pull together as much, coaches were replaced every few years, and their record (33-35-14) reflected the inconsistency. In the three years since, their record is 34-104-4. "We weren't a team, we had big stars and bigger egos," Neil said.

SENIOR CAPTAIN LANCE Neil dives for a save during a practice preparing for their Oct. 28 game against St. Edward.

The instability in the coaching position also made winning difficult.

"It was hard to get a read on what the coaches and the team were trying to achieve. . . Nobody really knew where they were standing within the program," Martahus said.

Players did not suggest that Soliman has unique strategies or coaching philosophies, but that he has been present for more than one season and treats players fairly.

"He's pretty unbiased," Martahus said. "He plays who plays well . . . It's not necessary that we have all the upperclassmen starting."

"We have a lot of team chemistry," junior defender Jacob Miller said. "[The] seniors have really helped out the underclassmen and they've really brought us together as a team, Lance more than anybody."

Adam Schiller • The Shakerite

SENIOR BROTHERS PATRICK and Andrew Martahus warm up before a regular season 10-0 win Sept. 16 against Beford. Patrick Martahus has 22 goals in 2009, a school record.

by the #'s

Men's Soccer

22

Number of goals senior starter Patrick Martahus has scored this season, a Shaker record

10

Number of shutouts that senior Captain Lance Neil has had so far this season.

3rd

Seed of the men's team in the playoffs this year.

Compiled by Ian Round

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association
SHTA
Professionals Dedicated To Educating Shaker's Youth

SOPHOMORE STAR STEALS THE SPOTLIGHT

Students gathered in a circle around David Levitz as he displayed Beyoncé's feminine routine almost perfectly at the Oct. 10 Homecoming dance. Levitz, who knew the dance before the episode of "Glee" in which Kurt Hummel performed "Single Ladies" aired, didn't mind the brief time in the spotlight. "I'm not one to be shy," he said. However, this is not his first "Single Ladies" spectacle; Levitz learned the dance before with the Stagecrafters junior troupe, a class taken year round at Orange High School. "I've known it for a while and it always seems to please the crowd. So when the song came on, I snagged my chance," Levitz said. To see David Levitz's original performance of thedance, please visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyISHoK5ubo.

ALYSSE EBERHARD

Levitz

SINGING ALONG WITH glee

• A TV show about a Spanish teacher and his show choir dreams has captured the attention of Shaker students and the Chanticleers

BY KATIE INGLIS
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Based on the talk around school, not much homework is completed on Wednesday nights from 9-10 p.m.

And not much work is happening first period Thursdays, either, as students and teachers rehash the latest events on their favorite TV show, "Glee."

Few shows have captured people's attention like "Glee," a one-hour musical drama/comedy that takes place in a fictional McKinley High School in nonfictional Lima, Ohio. "Glee" tells the story of Spanish teacher William Schuester, a talented performer who hides his singing and dancing talents behind his lesson plans. A glee club star during his high school years, he dreams of reviving the club at his alma mater, where he now works.

Unfortunately, the nerd factor attached to glee club makes recruiting difficult, so Schuester's club initially comprises a half dozen students from the fringes of high school society – kids with disabilities, ethnic and sexual minorities, and an insufferable diva. Nevertheless, when Schuester manages to recruit the football team's quarterback, glee club begins to threaten the social order, and slushee facials ensue.

The comedy never fails to entertain as Schuester's students unite against their peers' abuse. The TV musical has struck a chord with students and adults. After the Sept. 9 show debut, Glee was the highest rated show among adults, ages 18-49.

"Every year there are crappy shows on TV, but once in a while the TV writers of America make a hit, and 'Glee' is definitely a hit," sophomore Hannah McCandless said.

"It's a really good show and it's, like, entertaining. People should learn from it!" freshman Christina Harris said.

While everyone is booming with excitement over the new sensation, Shaker has its own version of Glee club – The Chanticleers. Among the show's biggest and most informed fans are members of the Chanticleers and their adviser, Robert Schneider.

When asked if "Glee" was appointment TV for the Chanticleers, Chants members' responses were often very enthusiastic.

"DUH!" sophomore Caroline Hatch said.

The Chanticleers have been a club for at least 40 years. According to Schneider, the club began to transform into a show choir that included singing and dancing starting in the 1980s. Schneider emphasized that show choir members have a tough job.

"Chanticleers differs from other choirs first and foremost in the fact that the members have to have talent has both a singer and a dancer, and have to be able to sing while they are dancing. Not an easy match for many," Schneider stated in an e-mail message.

Yet, in every episode of "Glee," Schuester's students burst into pitch-perfect song and flawless dance routines at a moment's notice. The reality of show choirs, however, is much more arduous. Chants practices for at least three and a half hours per week to learn musical numbers for their performances, while Glee club seems to learn the songs and dance moves within the 5 minute gap for commercials.

Many "Glee" cast members have Broadway credentials, and their covers of songs from decades ago up to today have enchanted their listeners. During the week of Oct. 5, according to The New York Times, 10 spots on iTunes top 100 songs were occupied by "Glee" cast recordings.

However, people's newfound love for show choir may have inflated expectations for the Chanticleers.

"I think people don't give us enough credit because [the actors and actresses in 'Glee'] get redos and voice-overs, but we only get one chance," senior Anna Oberfeld said.

Although Chanticleers members said they have not experienced comparisons with their fictional peers, they were flattered by the comparison to the actors of Glee.

"I guess we would take it as a compliment, 'cause they're like, raw, and [the actors] are really hot!" Hatch said.

But is "Glee" stealing Chanticleers' spotlight? "I don't think people think we're uncool like in 'Glee,' but they just don't understand what Chants is," junior Gabe Gordon said.

While Schuester is desperate for members and seems to accept anyone who shows up for practice, Chanticleers is significantly selective.

"Each spring we always have a large number of students audition for the group. We look for talent in both singing and dancing. Vocal parts must be equally balanced (soprano, alto, tenor and bass)," Schneider stated. "The students are given music to sing and a dance routine to learn. They have a few days to work on it, and then we observe the results."

Sophomore Jonah Weinstein believes their unity as a group only makes it easier to reach their full potential. "We all have a common goal of stepping it up and bringing our performance to the next level," he said.

top 5 Gleeful moments: the scenes that made you sing!

Quarterback and singing sensation Finn Hudson performs an arrangement of "Confessions" by Usher and "It's My Life" by Bon Jovi during the Oct. 21 episode titled "Mash-up."

The woeful McKinley High football team stuns its opponent by breaking out in Beyoncé's mega-hit "Single Ladies" dance during the Sept. 23 episode "Preggers." The performance distracted the defense long enough for McKinley to score a touchdown and win its first game of the season.

The leading ladies of "Glee" brighten the rehearsal room with an arrangement combining Beyoncé's ballad "Halo" with the poppy "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves during "Mash-up."

At the close of the series pilot, the club performs the cover that launched the iTunes "Glee" phenomenon. Contrary to what many students think, "Don't Stop Believin'" was not originally performed by the "Glee" cast. The song was recorded by Journey in 1981 and peaked at the ninth spot on the Top 40. By contrast, 10 "Glee" versions of pop songs have been downloaded more than 1 million times.

In support of their club mate Quinn, the glee club passionately performs "Keep Holding On" by Avril Lavigne after the news of Quinn's pregnancy travels through the school during the Oct. 14 episode "Throwdown."

Compiled by Brandon Patterson and Katie Inglis